

Capacity Utilisation of Steel Plants

174. SHRI A. K. A. ABDUL SAMAD:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be
pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of steel produced, im-
ported and exported during 1987-88, 1988-
89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 (so far);

(b) the capacity utilisation of the in-

stalled and operational steel plants in the
country, separately for public and private
sector during these years; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken during
1990-91 to improve the capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) The
quantity of finished steel produced, imported
and exported from 1987-88 onwards is as
under:

(in lakh tonnes)

	<i>Production</i>	<i>Imports</i>	<i>Exports*</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1987-88	116.84	16.9	0.42
1988-89	128.43	16.0 @	1.13
1989-90	129.96	13.6 @	2.32
1990-91	108.68	N/A @	3.05 (Likely)

(upto Jan.'90)

@ — Imports through Major Ports only-Authoritative figures have not yet been published
by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta.

* — Relates to exports by main producers only.

(b) The capacity utilisation of the Steel Plants in terms of installed capacity is as under:

	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	<i>1990-91</i> <i>(likely)</i>
SAIL	77%	81%	76%	78%
TISCO	110%	112%	94%	93% (Expected)
Secondary Producers*	N/A	72% to 90%	65% to 90%	N/A

* There are 169 commissioned units and the range of capacity utilisation is given above.

(c) The steps taken to improve the capacity utilisation in the SAIL plants are as under:-

1. Ensuring adequate availability of inputs of right quality and in the required quantity including import of low ash coking coal.
2. Augmentation and optimisation of captive power generation.
3. Improved maintenance of plant and equipment for better availability.
4. Strict adherence to technological norms.
5. Change in work culture conducive to higher production and productivity.
6. Increasing awareness and spirit of accountability.
7. Modernisation and technological upgradation of Plants.

The capacity utilisation of TISCO is already above the licenced capacity.

Secondary producers are allowed to modernise their plants and instal energy efficient equipment with a view to improve their capacity utilisation.

Inflation Rate

175. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of inflation has increased further during the past two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken

any effective steps to contain inflation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the result achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). During the past two month (December, 1990 and January, 1991) the Wholesale Price Index (Base 1981-82=100) has registered an increase of 1.9 per cent from the level of 185.3 on 24th November, 1990 to 188.9 on 26th January, 1991.

(c) and (d). The Government have taken several measures to contain inflation. These include strict fiscal discipline through monitoring of Government expenditure, check on expansion of liquidity in the economy, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, and a strict action against hoarders.

Waiver of Agricultural Loans in Kerala

176. SHRI SURESH KODIKKUNNIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of assistance given by the Union Government to the Kerala Government for waiving loans under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has demanded more funds for waiving loans under the Scheme.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?